(b) whether it is a fact that the French authorities and the metro companies have evinced keen interest for technical assistance in Delhi's rapid transport system;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a proposal for equity participation and technology transfer with some Public Undertakings is already in the pipeline; and

(d) if so, what are the details in respect of parts (a) to (c) above indicating the names of French Companies willing to help Indian Housing Finance Companies, either individually or through National Housing Board among others, for low income housing projects?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the French Government pertaining to cooperation in urban development sector. An outline proposal pertaining to social housing, training, research and building materials industry has been forwarded to the Government of France with a request to send an appraisal mission to India to discuss the proposal.

Purchase of Wheat

*44. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake commercial purchases of wheat from the domestic market to cope with the shortage of foodgrains in the Central pool; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the government.

(b) Does not arise.

Vocational Training institutes for the Handicapped

*45. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that vocational training is being imparted to deaf, dumb and handicapped persons of 16 to 30 years of age at various training institutes in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether any financial assistance is being provided to such training institutes;

(c) if so, the details of such assistance provided during the last three years; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to provide vocational training to all able bodied deaf, dumb and handicapped persons of M.P. in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir. Vocational trainings are given by Non-Governmental organisations and Institutes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Assistance is given under the Scheme of "Assistance to Organisations for the Disabled Persons" against specific project proposals. A list of Voluntary Organisations to whom grant-in-aid has been given for the last three years is enclosed as Statement (*See* below)

(d) The vocational training is given mostly through Voluntary Organisations. Government will welcome more organisations to work in this field.